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Rebel Under Heavy Guard in Caracas

Pastora Satisfactory After Surgery

CARACAS, Venezuela, June 2 (UPI)—Nicaraguan guerrilla leader Eden Pastora underwent emergency surgery today for burns and shrapnel wounds suffered in a bombing assassination attempt and was in satisfactory condition, doctors said.

Doctors at the private Metropolitan Clinic in Caracas said they removed bomb fragments and treated first- and second-degree burns that Pastora suffered over 43 percent of his body—on the chest, right hand and left leg.

"Bomb fragments were removed from his body," said a clinic spokesman. "Pastora suffered cuts and bruises over his entire body, but he is in pretty good shape."

Special Venezuelan state security agents, armed with automatic weapons and some dressed in combat uniforms, maintained a tight vigil outside and inside the clinic. Access to Pastora's room was prohibited.

Pastora, commander of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, known by its Spanish acronym ARDE, was injured when a bomb went off as he held a news conference in a rebel headquarters inside Nicaragua, killing eight people, including American reporter Linda Frazier, 38, of Portland, Ore. He was deported yesterday to Venezuela from Costa Rica.

During the flight from San Jose, Pastors told Yenezuelan television he would return to guerrilla action in Nicaragua soon because, "I am convinced that ARDE is the only democratic alternative" for the war-torn Central American country.

"We will die fighting, and here I am. I am not up for sale and I will not surrender. Within two months I will be back in the hills," said Pastora. He pledged to "establish the democratic Sandinista revolution" in Nicaragus.

Authorities have not identified the exact cause of the explosion, an apparent attempt to kill Pastora, and no one has claimed responsibility for the attack in La Penca, a mile inside Nicaragua and 100 miles north of San Jose.

"I am not blaming anyone in particular. I am not blaming the KGB, nor am I blaming the CIA, until the necessary investigation is completed," Pastora said in the television interview.